Upgradation of Lucknow Airport

2839. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to upgrade the Lucknow (Amausi) and Amritsar (Rajasansi) airports into ultra modern airports;

(b) if so, whether the work thereon has been held up; if so, the details of the projects and at what stage it has been held up; and

(c) the progress made thereon, so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) In respect of Lucknow airport, extension of runway upto 9000 feet has been completed and expansion and modernization of terminal building is planned. Commissioning of Category II approach lighting system is held up due to non-shifting of nearby village forming obstruction to the project.

As regards Amritsar airport, the construction work has been resumed and is likely to be completed by October, 2005. However, a portion of the Terminal Building is proposed to be commissioned by end of August, 2005 to provide immediate relief to the arriving passengers. The project is likely to be completed by October, 2005.

Effect of Poaching of Pilots

2840. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the informal 'No Poaching' agreement reached between public sector and private sector airlines is working as expected;

(b) whether both Indian Airlines and Alliance Airways are feeling the crunch of pilot shortage and whether of late, most of the departure schedules have gone away;

(c) what contingency measures are planned by the Directorate-General of Civil Aviation to prevent such abrupt exit of the crew; and

(d) whether the DGCA proposes to revoke licenses of the crew in the event of their quitting employment without adequate notice?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) No, Sir. No code of conduct could be finalised by airlines.

(b) In recent years, there has been no significant exodus of pilots from Indian Airlines. However, Alliance Air is facing shortage of pilots. Adjustments have been made to the flight schedules in order to maintain regularity of services within the existing resources.

(c) and (d) DGCA is examining the action which can be taken against crew who abruptly leave without adequate notice.

New Baggage Clearance System

2841. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to put the modern "In Line" system at all major airports in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the automated machine baggage clearance system, if installed, will help to ease the congestion at the airports; and

(d) if so, the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In-line X-Ray Baggage Inspection System is proposed to be installed at Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai, Ahmedabad, Calicut and Srinagar airports.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Firms have been shortlisted for participation in the tender process. Work on system design and layout for respective airport terminal and tender documents have begun for inviting bids from the shortlisted firms.